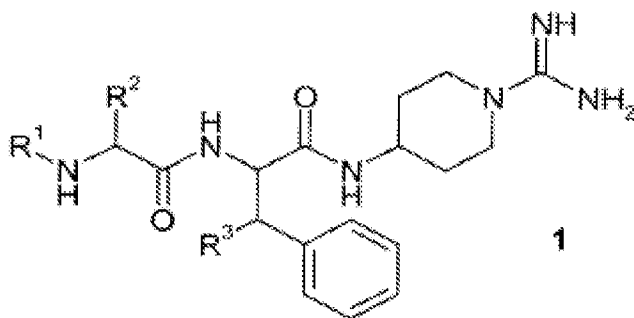


Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A compound according to general formula 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



R¹ is selected from H, lower alkyl, R⁴-CO, R⁴-O₂CCH₂, R⁵-OCO and R⁵-SO₂;

R^1 and R^2 together form an *o*-xylylene group wherein the aromatic ring moiety of the *o*-xylylene group is optionally substituted with a group selected from F, Cl, Br, OH, lower alkyl and O-(lower alkyl) (C₆-C₁₀)cycloalkylmethyl, benzyl optionally substituted with up to three groups chosen from F, Cl, Br, OH, lower alkyl and O-(lower alkyl), phenethyl optionally substituted with up to three groups chosen from F, Cl, Br, OH, lower alkyl and O-(lower alkyl) and benzyloxymethyl optionally substituted with up to three groups chosen from F, Cl, Br, OH, lower alkyl and O-(lower alkyl);

R³ is selected from H, OH and O-lower alkyl;

R⁴ is selected from H, lower alkyl and phenyl; and

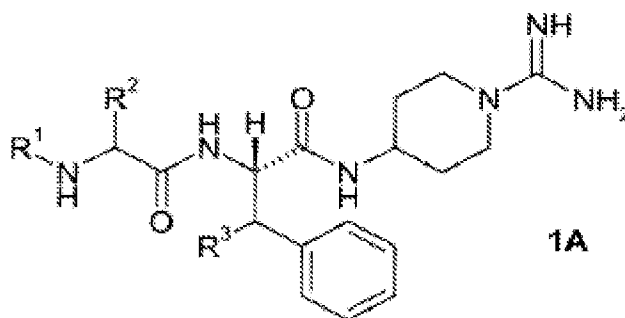
R⁵ is selected from lower alkyl, phenyl and benzyl.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is selected from H, lower alkyl, and R⁴-O₂CCH₂.

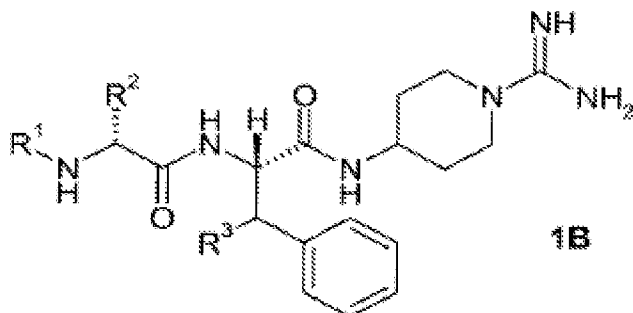
3. Canceled.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R² is selected from cyclohexylmethyl, decahydronaphth-2-ylmethyl, benzyl, 4-fluorobenzyl, 4-chlorobenzyl, 4-hydroxybenzyl, 4-(lower alkyl)oxybenzyl, α -hydroxybenzyl, α -methoxybenzyl, phenethyl and benzyloxymethyl.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein the absolute stereochemistry is as depicted in general formula 1A.



6. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein the absolute stereochemistry is as depicted in general formula 1B.



7. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 selected from
 (2'S,2"R)-4-(2'-(2"-amino-3"-(4'''-ethoxyphenyl)propanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoyl-
 amino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
 (2'S,2"R)-4-(2'-(2"-carboxymethylamino-3"-(4'''-ethoxyphenyl)propanoylamino)-3'-
 phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
 (2'S,2"R)-4-(2'-(3"-(4'''-ethoxyphenyl)-2"-(methyloxycarbonylmethylamino)-propa-
 noylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
 (2'S,2"R)-4-(2'-(2"-amino-3"-cyclohexylpropanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropan-
 oylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
 (2'S,2"R)-4-(2'-(2"-carboxymethylamino-3"-cyclohexylpropanoylamino)-3'-
 phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
 (2'S,2"R)-4-(2'-(3"-cyclohexyl-2"-(methyloxycarbonylmethylamino)propanoylamino)-3'-
 phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
 (2'S,2"R)-4-(2'-(2"-amino-3"-phenylpropanoylamino)-3'-
 phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
 (2'S,2"R)-4-(2'-(2"-carboxymethylamino-3"-phenylpropanoylamino)-3'-phenyl-
 propanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
 (2'S,2"R)-4-(2'-(2"-(methyloxycarbonylmethylamino)-3"-phenylpropanoylamino)-3'-
 phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;
 (2'S,2"R)-4-(2'-(2"-amino-3"-decahydronaphth-2'''-ylpropanoylamino)-3'-

phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;

(2'S,2"R)-4-(2'-(2"-carboxymethylamino-3"-decahydronaphth-2'''-ylpropanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;

(2'S,2"R)-4-(2'-(3"-decahydronaphth-2'''-yl-2''-(methyloxycarbonylmethylamino)propanoylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;

(2'S,2"R,3'R)-4-(2'-(2"-amino-3"-cyclohexylpropanoylamino)-3'-hydroxy- -3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;

(2'S,2"R,3'R)-4-(2'-(2"-carboxymethylamino-3"-cyclohexylpropanoylamino)-3'-hydroxy-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;

(2'S,2"R,3'R)-4-(2'-(3"-cyclohexyl-2''-(methyloxycarbonylmethylamino)propanoylamino)-3'-hydroxy-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;

(2'S,2"R,3'R)-4-(2'-(2"-amino-3''-(4'''-ethoxyphenyl)propanoylamino)-3'-methoxy-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine;

(2'S,2"R,3'R)-4-(2'-(2"-carboxymethylamino-3''-(4'''-ethoxyphenyl)propanoylamino)- 3'-methoxy-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine; and

(2'S,2"R,3'R)-4-(2'-(3''-(4'''-ethoxyphenyl)-2''-(methyloxycarbonylmethylamino)propanoylamino)-3'-methoxy-3'-phenylpropanoylamino)piperidine-1-carboxamidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8-12. Canceled.